

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-21 remain in the application. Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-21 are subject to examination. Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12 have been amended. Claims 4 and 11 have been canceled to facilitate prosecution of the instant application.

Under the heading "Claims Objections", the Examiner notes an informality with regard to claim 1. The Examiner's suggested correction has been incorporated.

Under the heading "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102" on pages 2-4 of the above-identified final Office Action, claims 1-3, 10 and 20 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,710,645 to Isken et al. (hereinafter Isken) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's statement that claims 4-9 and 11-19 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." In light of the above, applicant has incorporated the features of claim 4 into claim 1 and the features of claim 11

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into claim 10. Claims 5, 6, and 12 have been amended to recite new dependencies.

Under the heading "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103" on page 4 of the above-identified final Office Action, claim 21 has been rejected as being obvious over Isken in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,426,674 to Davidescu (hereinafter Davidescu) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claim 21 ultimately relies on claim 1 which is believed to be allowable and therefore claim 21 is also believed to be allowable.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 10. Claims 1 and 10 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 10.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-21 are solicited.

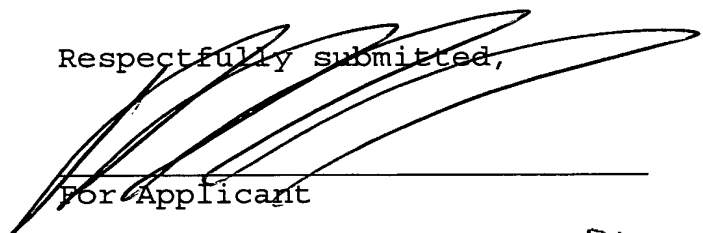
If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith

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should be charged to the Deposit Account of Lerner and
Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner
and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant

RALPH E. LOCHER
REG. NO. 41,947

REL:cgm

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
P.O. Box 2480
Hollywood, Florida 33022-2480
Tel.: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101